

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

[rubber stamp]

To:

see Form PCT/ISA/220

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing (day/month/year) see Form PCT/ISA/210 (sheet 2)
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Applicant's or agent's file reference see Form PCT/ISA/220	FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below	
International application No. PCT/EP2004/012815	International filing date (day/month/year) 12.11.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 25.11.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC H04Q1/14		
Applicant KRONE GMBH		

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- Box No. II Priority
- Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires earlier.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA  European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Netherlands Tel.: +31 70 340-2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340-3016	Authorized officer Willems, B
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Tel. +31 70 340-1026



WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International Application No.
PCT/EP2004/012815

Box No. I. Basis of this opinion

SEARCHED 19 MAY 2006

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. **type of material**
 a sequence listing
 table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. **format of material**
 in written format
 in computer readable form
 - c. **time of filing/furnishing**
 contained in the international application as filed.
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/012815

Box No. II. Priority

1. The following document has not yet been furnished:
 - copy of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rules 43bis.1 and 66.7(a)).
 - translation of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rules 43bis.1 and 66.7(b)).Consequently it has not been possible to consider the validity of the priority claim. This opinion has nevertheless been established on the assumption that the relevant date is the claimed priority date.
2. This opinion has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the fact that the priority claim has been found invalid (Rules 43bis.1 and 64.1). Thus for the purposes of this opinion, the international filing date indicated above is considered to be the relevant date.
3. Additional observations, if necessary:

see Supplementary sheet

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Statement

Novelty	Yes:	Claims	1-27,29
	No:	Claims	28
Inventive Step	Yes:	Claims	1-18,25,29
	No:	Claims	19-24,26-28
Industrial Applicability	Yes:	Claims	1-29
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see Supplementary sheet

1AP20Rec'd PCT/PTO 19 MAY 2006

Re Item II.

1 PRIORITY

- 1.1 The document D2 was produced by the same applicant (Krone GmbH) and the same inventor (Anthony Nijuis) and discloses the subject matter of claim 28. The claimed priority of claim 28 is thus not valid.

Re Point V.

- 1 The following documents are referred to in the present decision:

D1: US 5 602 723 A (TAKAHASHI ET AL) February 11, 1997 (1997-02-11)
 D2: DE 102 36 361 A1 (KRONE GMBH) March 4, 2004 (2004-03-04)

2 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 19

- 2.1 The present application does not comply with the requirements of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject matter of claim 19 is not based on an inventive step in the sense of Article 33(3) PCT.

The document D1 discloses (the references in brackets relate to this document): a connection module for a distribution device, having a housing, an SDH/Sonet transport interface and an output for an electrical signal, with a converter for conversion of SDH/Sonet transport signals to electrical signals, and vice versa, being arranged between the input and the output within the housing.

The subject matter of claim 19 thus differs from the known D1 in that the electrical signals E1 are signals.

Claim 19 relates to a minor physical change to the connection module according to the document D1, which is within the scope of what a person skilled in the art would do on the basis of the considerations with which he is familiar in order to directly attain the advantages achieved in this way. In consequence, the subject matter of claim 19 is not based on an inventive step.

3 DEPENDENT CLAIMS 20-24, 26, 27

claims 20-24, 26, 27 contain no features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they relate, satisfy the requirements of the PCT with regard to novelty or inventive step.

4 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1

- 4.1 The document D1 is regarded as the closest prior art and discloses (the references in brackets relate to this document):

A distribution device for communications and data technology, with the distribution board connection module having a housing in which externally accessible input and output contacts are arranged for connection of lines, cables or conductors (Figures 5 and 12)

from which the subject matter of the independent claim 1 differs in that:
the distribution device has at least one further connection module, with the connection module having at least one SDH/Sonet transport interface and outputs for electrical signals, with the outputs of the connection module being connected to the inputs of the distribution board connection module, and with the connection module having at least one converter for conversion of SDH/Sonet transport signals to E1 signals, and vice versa.

- 4.1.1 The subject matter of claim 1 is thus novel (Article 33(2) PCT).

The object to be achieved by the present invention can thus be regarded as being that installation by means of the distribution device is simplified.

- 4.1.2 The solution as proposed in claim 1 of the present application for this object is based on an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) because it cannot be regarded as being a conventional procedure for a person skilled in the art to combine all of the features stated in claim 1 with one another.

- 4.1.3 claims 2-18 are dependent on claim 1 and thus likewise satisfy the requirements of the PCT with regard to novelty and inventive step.

5 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 28

- 5.1 The present application does not comply with the requirements of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject matter of claim 28 is not novel in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

The document D2, from the same applicant, is regarded as the closest prior art. This discloses (the references in brackets relate to this document):

a distribution board connection module for a distribution device for communications and data technology, comprising a housing in which externally accessible input and output contacts are arranged for connection of lines, cables or conductors (paragraphs 24-26), with the input contacts being in the form of a multipole (implicitly disclosed) plug connectors and the output contacts being in the form of insulation-displacement terminal contacts or coaxial plug connectors, with functional elements being arranged electrically between the input and output contacts in the housing (paragraphs 24-26),
characterized in that
the functional elements are in the form of line drivers for an STM1 board (paragraphs 24-26).

The subject matter of claim 28 is thus not novel.